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United States Department of the Interior

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INFORMATION NOTICE

The following information updates information provided on page v (Section titled "Forms of payment") of the May 5, 2015, *Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale*.

On March 4, 2015 the attached Information Bulletin (IB) No. OC-2015-019, containing changes to allowable methods of payment to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), was issued by the BLM National Operations Center. The requirements described within the IB are applicable to payments received in conjunction with oil and gas lease sales held by BLM Wyoming, including the upcoming May 5, 2015 competitive oil and gas lease sale. **Effective immediately, there is a prohibition on the use of multiple credit card payments for a single obligation due to the Federal Government. Also effective immediately, BLM Wyoming will accept electronic funds (wire) transfer payments and payments through BLM's Automated Clearing House. Effective June 1, 2015, no individual credit card payment transaction may exceed \$24,999.99.**

To reduce the fees that the Federal Government incurs for credit card processing, the Department of the Treasury is limiting the dollar value allowed for credit card collections. **Effective June 1, 2015, an individual credit card payment transaction may not exceed \$24,999.99.** This limit has been lowered from the previous payment transaction limit of \$49,999.99. Any credit card transaction greater than \$24,999.99 will be rejected, regardless of whether the credit card transaction represents a single payment or a bundled payment – i.e., the payment of more than one bill, debt, or other obligation due to the Federal Government. **This requirement does not go into effect until June 1, 2015; therefore, BLM Wyoming will accept an individual credit card payment transaction up to \$49,999.99 in association with the upcoming May 5, 2015 competitive oil and gas lease sale.**

Effective immediately, customers who owe an amount on a bill, debt, or other obligation due to the Federal Government are prohibited from splitting the total amount due into multiple credit card payments. An amount owed that exceeds the maximum dollar amount for a credit card payment transaction may not be split into two or more payment transactions in the same day by using one or multiple credit cards. Additionally, an amount owed that exceeds the maximum dollar amount for a credit card payment transaction may not be split into two or more transactions over multiple days by using one or more credit cards.

The Section titled "Forms of payment", on page v of the May 5, 2015, *Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale*, is hereby modified, as follows.

Forms of payment: You may pay by personal check, certified check, money order, Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), Automated Clearing House (ACH), or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover Card only). We cannot accept cash. If you plan to make your payment using a credit card, you should contact your bank prior to the sale and let them know you will be making a substantial charge against your account. ***Please note, we will not accept credit or debit card payments for an amount equal to or greater than \$49,999.99. We also will not accept aggregated smaller amounts to bypass this requirement.*** An amount owed that exceeds the maximum dollar amount for a credit card payment transaction may not be split into two or more payment transactions in the same day by using one or multiple credit cards. Additionally, an amount owed that exceeds the maximum dollar amount for a credit card payment transaction may not be split into two or more transactions over multiple days by using one or more credit cards. The BLM does not have Personal Identification Number (PIN) equipment for the purpose of processing PIN authorized debit cards. All debit card transactions will be processed as credit cards and the dollar value limits will apply. If you pay by check, please make your check payable to: **Department of the Interior-BLM**. If a check you have sent to us in the past has been returned for insufficient funds, we may ask that you give us a guaranteed payment, such as a certified check. If you pay by credit card and the transaction is refused, we will try to notify you early enough so that you can make other payment arrangements. ***However, we cannot grant you any extension of time to pay the money that is due the day of the sale.***

Please note that under regulation 43 CFR 3120.5-2 (b), the winning bidder for a parcel sold at a competitive oil and gas lease sale shall submit on the day of the sale the minimum bonus bid of \$2 per acre, the first year's rental, and a processing fee (currently \$155.00 per parcel). The minimum monies owed the day of the sale for a winning bid are monies owed to the United States, whether or not a lease is issued (43 CFR 3120.5-3 (a)). **Any submitted payment which is declined by the associated financial institution does not constitute the payment required under 43 CFR 3120.5-2 (b).** If the required payment is not made on the day of the sale, any winning bid associated with the payment will be rejected for noncompliance with the regulations, no lease associated with the payment will be issued, the land will be reoffered at a future competitive lease sale, and the BLM will issue a bill for the monies owed. If payment is not received by the bill due date, a demand letter will be sent to the winning bidder that will include additional fees. If payment is not received as requested by the demand letter, the United States will pursue collection by all available methods, and when appropriate, collect late fees, civil penalties, interest, administrative charges and penalties on past due amounts. "All available methods" include, but are not limited to, referral to collection agencies and credit reporting bureaus, salary or administrative offset, offset of Federal and State payments, including goods or services, Federal and State tax refund offset, and retirement payment offset. Debts may be sent to the Internal Revenue Service for inclusion as income to you on form 1099C, Cancellation of Debt. (Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended; Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996; and 31 CFR 285, Debt Collection Authorities Under the Debt Collection Act of 1966.)

Please address any questions you may have regarding the information in this Notice to me at the letterhead address or you may contact me by phone at 307-775-6176.

/s/ Chris Hite

Chris Hite
Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals Adjudication